

financial losses such as medical expenses, lost wages, counseling/therapy, and other costs related to the assault.

Do not shower. Valuable evidence of the assault remains on your body and clothes. Do not change clothes, eat, drink, smoke, comb your hair, shower, urinate, defecate, or douche before going to the emergency room. However, if you have already done these things, don't let this stop you from seeking medical care. Take a change of clothes with you to the emergency room, and if you have already changed your clothes you were wearing during the assault, place them in a paper bag and take them to the hospital with you.

If you believe you were given a drug, wait to urinate until you arrive at the hospital. However, if you can't wait, collect your first urine in a clean container with a lid and take it to the emergency room or police station. Also, be sure to tell the emergency room personnel your symptoms and that you believe you were given a drug so they can take the necessary samples.

Law Enforcement Response

Law enforcement will need to ask you questions about the assault. Some questions may be very difficult to answer and may not make sense at the time they are asked, but there is a reason for them. It is not unusual for law enforcement to visit with the victim numerous times during the course of an investigation. Once law enforcement has investigated and has been able to identify the offender, they will send the information to the prosecutor.

Prosecutor Response

The prosecutor determines if there is enough evidence to move forward with prosecution. The system sometimes moves slowly. It sometimes seems that just as you begin to feel OK, you are thrown back into the middle of the trauma because of a court hearing or trial. Sometimes victims find it very important to have information about the court case and proceedings. Most prosecutors have Victim Witness Coordinators who can help get this information. Victims have a legal right to certain information about the case.

Advocate Response

Advocates from your local sexual assault program can be accessed whether or not you choose to report. Advocates can

be an invaluable help to you during the process of reporting. Advocates are trained to be with you at the hospital, go with you to the police station, provide individual and group counseling, and provide you with specific information about sexual assault. Whether you decide to report, getting in touch with your local sexual assault program can be a very important and helpful step in your healing.

Sexual assault is a crisis, and we all handle crisis in different ways. Some women go into shock after being sexually assaulted, or experience overwhelming fear, anger, shame, or anxiety. The emotional reaction to sexual assault is complex and often confusing. Remember that your feelings and experiences are not unusual. You are not alone. The fear and confusion will lessen with time, but the trauma may disrupt your life for awhile.

For support, contact the following:

Kansas Crisis Hotline

1-888-END-ABUSE (1-888-363-2287)

National Sexual Assault Hotline

1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673)

For more information:

Kansas Coalition Against

Sexual and Domestic Violence

634 SW Harrison Topeka, KS 66603

785-232-9784 www.kcsdv.org

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**If You
HAVE BEEN
SEXUALLY
ASSAULTED**

**Kansas Coalition Against
Sexual and Domestic Violence**



SAFETY, ACCOUNTABILITY & JUSTICE
for victims of sexual assault and
domestic violence and their children

If You Have Been Sexually Assaulted

If you have been sexually assaulted, you may feel alone and confused. You can get support, assistance and information from a local sexual assault program. The sexual assault program responds immediately through its 24-hour hotline and 24-hour response to hospital emergency rooms and police stations. The program also provides ongoing advocacy and counseling services. Services are free and can help you to clarify information and explore the feelings that may surface after sexual assault. If you choose to report the sexual assault, you don't need to go through any of the procedures alone. A friend, relative or sexual assault advocate can accompany you and give you support.

If, at any point during the medical or law enforcement procedures, you don't understand what is happening—just ask. The nurse, doctor, officer, district attorney, and sexual assault advocate are available to explain things to you.

Remember that rape and sexual assault are serious, violent crimes. They are crimes that could happen to anyone. No matter the circumstances, the assault was not your fault.

To Report or To Not Report

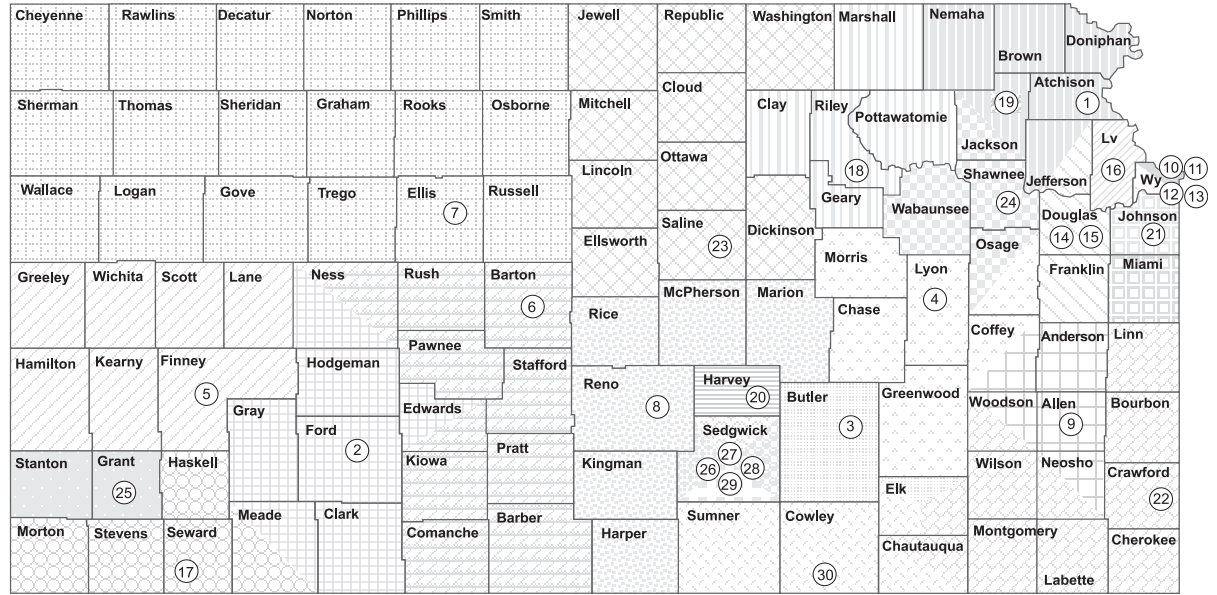
Reporting a sexual assault to law enforcement is a very individualized decision that victims will need to make for themselves. Remember, if you decide not to report, you are still fully entitled to support services and medical care. If you do decide to report, you will need to know what to expect from the criminal justice system. Below is a brief overview of what to expect. Your local sexual assault program advocate will be able to more fully help you understand the process in your area and to support you through it.

Hospital Response

A sexual assault evidence kit, sometimes called a "rape kit," is performed by medical personnel to collect evidence. Although medical personnel who collect the evidence are well-trained, the process may be uncomfortable for you. Support is important. The cost of collection of the evidence will be assessed to the county. However, there may be other costs incurred at the hospital for medical treatment that are not considered part of the evidence kit. If you have reported the assault to law enforcement, you may be eligible for Crime Victims' Compensation benefits that can help you pay for

(cont. other side)

Kansas Sexual and Domestic Violence Programs



1. Atchison	DoVES	800-367-7075 or 913-367-0363
2. Dodge City	Crisis Center of Dodge City	620-225-6510
3. El Dorado	Family Life Center of Butler County	800-8870-6967 or 316-321-7104
4. Emporia	SOS, Inc.	800-825-1295 or 620-342-1870
5. Garden City	Family Crisis Services	620-275-5911
6. Great Bend	Family Crisis Center	866-792-1885 or 620-792-1885
7. Hays	NW KS Domestic and Sexual Violence Svcs.	800-794-4624 or 785-625-3055
8. Hutchinson	Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center	800-701-3630 or 620-663-2522
9. Iola	Hope Unlimited	620-365-7566
10. Kansas City, KS	El Centro, Inc. ¡Si Se Puede! (<i>domestic violence</i>)	913-677-0177
11. Kansas City, KS	Friends of Yates /Joyce H.Williams Center (<i>domestic violence</i>)	913-321-0951
12. Kansas City, MO	KCAVP	816-561-0550
13. Kansas City, MO	MOCSA (<i>sexual assault</i>)	816-531-0233
14. Lawrence	GaDuGi Safe Center (<i>sexual assault</i>)	785-841-2345
15. Lawrence	Women's Transitional Care Services (<i>domestic violence</i>)	800-770-3030 or 785-843-3333
16. Leavenworth	Alliance Against Family Violence	800-644-1441 or 913-682-9131
17. Liberal	Liberal Area Rape Crisis and DV Services	620-624-8818
18. Manhattan	The Crisis Center, Inc.	800-727-2785 or 785-539-2785
19. Mayetta	Prairie Band Potawatomi Family Violence Prevention Program	888-966-2932 or 785-966-2932
20. Newton	Harvey County DV/SA Task Force	800-487-0510 or 316-283-0350
21. Overland Park	Safehome, Inc.	888-432-4300 or 913-262-2868
22. Pittsburg	Crisis Resource Center of Southeast Kansas, Inc.	800-794-9148 or 620-231-8251
23. Salina	Domestic Violence Assoc. of Central Kansas	800-874-1499 or 785-827-5862
24. Topeka	YWCA Battered Women Task Force	888-822-2983 or daytime 785-354-7927 evening 785-234-3300
25. Ulysses	DoVES of Grant County	620-356-2608
26. Wichita	Catholic Charities Harbor House (<i>domestic violence</i>)	866-899-5522 or 316-263-6000
27. Wichita	StepStone (<i>domestic violence</i>)	316-265-1611
28. Wichita	Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (<i>sexual assault</i>)	316-263-3002 or <i>por español</i> : 316-263-2044
29. Wichita	YWCA Women's Crisis Center (<i>domestic violence</i>)	316-267-7233
30. Winfield	Safe Homes, Inc.	800-794-7672 or 620-221-4357